



**NASA ABORTS
ITS MOON
MISSION AT
LAST MOMENT**

A fuel leak and then an engine problem during final lift-off preparations forced NASA to scrub the launch of its mighty new moon rocket on Monday | P14

**The next
launch attempt
is expected
on Friday**

The **98 metre** spaceship is the most powerful rocket ever built by NASA

No astronauts were in the rocket. Instead, there were test dummies fitted with sensors to measure vibration, cosmic radiation and other conditions

It was supposed to be the first flight in NASA's latest moon-exploration programme, called **ARTEMIS**

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Azad raps Cong, contrasts it with Modi's 'humanity'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

GHULAM Nabi Azad, who ended his long association with the Congress last week, on Monday said he was forced to leave the party. Launching a fresh attack on the Congress, he said, "I can only give my best wishes to the party, but it needs medicines more than my wishes. And, these medicines are being provided by compounders instead of doctors."

On some Congress leaders' charge that he was close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Azad said he had mistakenly assumed Modi was a crude man. "At least he (Modi) has shown humanity," he said referring to the PM's emotional speech on his farewell in Parliament. He said the speech was in the context of a terror incident in Kashmir during his tenure as J&K CM in 2006, while Modi was the Gujarat CM. Four tourists from Gujarat were killed and six others injured when terrorists lobbed grenades at their bus. "When the Gujarat CM called, I was crying loudly... I asked him for two planes, one for the dead and the other for the injured. He (Modi) turned emotional while referring to my state," Azad said.

Pradhan could be Nadda successor as BJP president

But incumbent could get one-year extension

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

AMID the Congress deciding to elect a new party president in mid-October, a bit of churning on BJP national president J P Nadda's successor has already begun within the ruling party. His first three-year term in office ends in January next.

Speculation is rife that Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan could be handed over the baton if the Big Two in the party decide against giving Nadda an extension. Two ideas are floating around on Nadda's extension — for one year till the next general elections or for a full three-year term. The national president of the party can have a maximum of two consecutive terms in office.

A senior leader said: "If Nadda does not get one-year extension, Pradhan could be his successor. Another name in circulation is Bhupendra Yadav." However, the possibility of Nadda getting a one-year extension is bright since he has served the party well, another source said. "BJP's performance in many states improved under Nadda's leadership," the leader pointed out. But he may not get a full second term.

Pradhan brings to the table his deep experience in organi-

sational matters and has excellent negotiating skills. He cut his organisational teeth while working with the ABVP during his student life. "He is sharp and witty and has the ability to forge alliances with like-minded parties," said a BJP leader.

Pradhan is also considered a troubleshooter in the Arun Jaitley mould. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assigns him tasks whenever the party faces problems and he is known to



J P Nadda

Dharmendra Pradhan

sort them out tactfully. When the government struggled to implement the National Education Policy, 2020, during Ramesh Pokhriyal's stint as Union education minister, Modi stripped him of the charge and handed it over to Pradhan last year.

As for Bhupendra Yadav, he has recently been inducted in the party's Central Election Committee. "But Pradhan is way ahead in the race to replace Nadda whenever that happens," a BJP leader said.

It's raining woes in Ramanagara

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru



A woman is helped out of a bus on a flooded road in Ramanagara, which saw heavy rain on Monday | EXPRESS

NORMAL life was thrown out of gear in Ramanagara district after a breach in Bakshi lake resulted in the flooding of Bengaluru-Mysuru Express Highway and railway tracks. Hundreds of houses were damaged, food grains and standing crops destroyed and thousands of livestock killed due to the impact of heavy rain. Motorists taking the highway had a tough time and a private bus carrying passengers was stranded on the highway.

"An NDRF team comprising 25 personnel has been deployed for rescue operations, five relief centres - four at Channarayana and one in Ramanagara - are being set up. About 900 people are being served food in relief centres since Saturday," said Dr Avinash Menon Rajendran, Deputy Commissioner, Ramanagara district. Train services were partially affected as some trains were delayed but resumed later after water was drained out from Ramanagara and Channarayana stations, he said. P4

CITY PU COLLEGES, SCHOOLS SHUT

With the IMD forecasting thunder showers and heavy rainfall, Bengaluru Urban DC has ordered closure of all schools and PU colleges in the city on Tuesday.

MAN DIES AFTER TREE FALLS ON CAR

Heavy rain on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway left a 52-year-old man dead after a tree fell on his car in Toredoddi village near Bidadi on Monday.

EXPRESS READ Nod for Ganesha fest at Hubballi Idgah Maidan

Hubballi: The Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) has finally given nod to install a Ganesha idol at the Idgah Maidan located near Rani Chennamma Circle. Out of six organisations that have sought permission, one will be permitted to consecrate the idol for three days | P3

SC Issues notice to K'taka govt on hijab ban

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Karnataka Government on pleas challenging the High Court order refusing to lift the hijab ban. The bench also pulled up some of the petitioners who had sought an adjournment, saying it would not permit "forum shopping" | P5

PONTIFF APPROACHES COURT FOR BAIL, HEARING ON SEPT 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

PONTIFF of Murugha Mutt Dr Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru on Monday submitted an application for anticipatory bail before the Second Additional District and Sessions Judge. Police are investigating a case filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act registered against the seer.

The court ordered the issuance of notices to the public prosecutor, complainant and the victims of the case as mentioned in the complaint and directed the prosecutor to file ob-



jections, if any, to the bail application and posted the hearing for September 1.

Meanwhile, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) team took the victims — two girls aged 15 and 16 — to the alleged place of crime at Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga as part of investigation.

₹45,000 CR AEROSPACE POLICY

The new Karnataka Aerospace and Defence Policy 2022-27 aims to attract investments to the tune of ₹45,000 crore in the aerospace and defence sector in five years | P4

The Deputy Commissioner, CWC members and a member of the NGO, Odanadi, Mysuru, were also present with the investigators.

Saraswathi of Odanadi organisation from Mysuru alleged that she was not allowed to meet the victims who are at Government Bala Mandir in Chitradurga.

Earlier in the day, the police reportedly stopped the seer's vehicle at Bankapura in Haveri and he returned to Chitradurga. Refuting allegations that he was fleeing, the seer said he was a law-abiding citizen and would cooperate with the investigations. P4

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*Ordinary toilet soap. ^Clinical study by dermatologists. ^^Healthy skin refers to improved skin conditioning. ^^^Kantar consumer survey.